introduction of magnetic rail called M-BAHN ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) by when it is likely to become operational ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Railway Board has set up a study group to consider various issues involved in introducing a Rapid Transit System in the cities. A view in the matter will be taken by the Government after receipt of the recommendations of the study group.

Freight Equalisation in Railways

†1056. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the freight equalisation in Railways in respect of coal and steel deprives most backward regions of India namely Bihar, Eastern U.P., Orissa and Bengal of the advantages of location ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

†Previously Unstarred Question 444 transferred from the 23rd July, 1986.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b) There is no scheme of freight equalisation for Coal. The scheme of freight equalisation is pplicable to iron and steel. The States in the eastern region are deprived of the locational advantage only to the extent of the freight in excess of the normal railway freight for transporting iron and steel.

(c) The Government have already decided in principle to phase out the freight equalisation scheme.

Delay in Implementation of Major Steel Projects

§1057. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) to what extent the implementation of major steel projects in the country has been delayed and what is the extent of cost escalation as against the original estimates in respect of each of the projects and

(b) what factors are responsible for the delay in this regard and what steps have been taken by Government to remove the constraints in completion of these projects according to the revised schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) Details are given in the Annexure.

§Previously Unstarred Question 464 transferred from the 24th July, 1986.